



Heineken Regatta History is made with the first place win of the team of GUMMER&POWER

The closing reception of the 15th Annual Heineken Catamaran Regatta on Friday evening at MooMba Beach Bar and Restaurant was a particularly momentous occasion, as the first place winning team from England of Stuart Gummer and Gillian Power accepted their handcrafted trophies. In the fifteen years that Heineken and other sponsors, along with the Aruba Tourism Authority have been conducting this popular regatta, it is the first time a team with a woman has claimed first place. Despite Stuart Gummer being ill for the last two days of racing, the team continued to impress by keeping command of the lead they established from the beginning of the regatta. This win was a particular victory for the team, as their Spitfire had been ruined in a collision during last year's race, so during regatta #15 they took advantage of the opportunity to show what they can really do.

The team of Mischa Heemskerk and Eduard Zanen took second place and were very pleased with the sailing conditions this year, reporting "Every day, we came off the boat with a big smile. We are happy with the result, since we are the first Tornado and we know it is hard to beat the F18's on handicap. We did well in comparison to other Tornado teams and so did Stuart and Gillian. They were very fast and sailed a good competition." Heemskerk will be traveling directly to Miami to train with his skipper Koen de Koning for the 2008 Olympics.

The team of Richard Allen and Simon Farren struggled for five days to finally win in the tenth race; this delivered them the third place trophy. According to Allen, he is satisfied with his third place in this year's strong fleet of competitors. Richard Allen is determined to win this regatta on day, "We have to win it though, so I still keep coming. I finished twice in second position. The last time was two years ago with Stuart. He managed to win now and I still haven't, so I have another challenge for 2006."

Along with Heineken General Manager Patrick Melchiors, Regatta Organizer Edwin Loder reports he is very happy with this year's event. "The sailing conditions were perfect and we have seen a very exciting competition. The sailors are happy, which is most important, of course." None seem to show any resentment about being trounced by a woman, and the second place winner of Heemskerk and Zanen made sure to give Gillian Power a thorough dousing of champagne to honor her historic win.

Aruba says goodbye to this year's regatta, and even as he awarded the additional prize to the first place winners of two round trip tickets to the destination of their choice with KLM airlines, he suggested that it would best be used to return to the Heineken Catamaran Regatta #16!